

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please make the following amendments to the Specification:

On Page 4, line 19:

The spindle 42 is adapted for insertion into the lower opening ~~[[28]]~~ 26 of the door member 22. The spindle 42 operatively engages the door handle 38. As shown in FIG. 10, the spindle 42 generally comprises a first spindle member 48 and a second spindle member 50. As explained in greater detail below, the spindle members 48, 50 can be configured into a specific confronting relation to define a predetermined outer dimension corresponding to the door handle opening 40. The spindle members 48, 50 are generally identical. FIGS. 6-9 illustrate one of the spindle members 48. Accordingly, the first spindle member 48 will be described in detail with the understanding that the description is applicable to the second spindle member 50.

On Page 6, lines 22-23:

In the door handle assembly 30, the first end 52 of the spindle 42 is inserted into the opening ~~[[28]]~~ 26. The second end 54 of the spindle 42 received by the opening 40 in the door handle 38. As such, the bow 86 engages the opening ~~[[28]]~~ 26, creating a secure interference fit therewith. The set screw 44 is inserted into the opening 41 in the handle 38. The set screw 44 engages one of the thinned bases 56 or sidewalls 82, 84 of the spindle 42 connecting the handle 38 to the spindle 42. Preferably, the spindle 42 is orientated in the door handle 38 such that the set screw 44 engages one of the seams 90 or 92 formed between the side walls 82, 84, providing a secure connection with the spindle 42.

On Page 7, lines 11-12:

The benefits of the present spindle assembly 42 are apparent. The spindle 42 includes a plurality of thin walls, which enables embedded connection by the set screw 44 regardless of the orientation of the spindle 42 in the handle 38. In the event that the spindle 42 is improperly positioned in the handle opening, the first leg 58 of the first and second spindle member 48, 50 extends outwardly, preventing the spindle 42 from being improperly installed in the handle 38 and door member 22. Further, in the event that the first and second spindle members 48, 50 are improperly installed such that the base 56 of one member confronts the pillars 62, 64 of the other member, the extending first legs and first pillars prevent the first and second member from mounting to form the spindle 42. In these improper configurations, the outer dimensions of the spindle members 48, 50 will exceed the predetermined outer dimension of a properly configured spindle 42. In such case, the spindle 42 in an improper configuration will not fit into the opening 40 of the door handle 38. In a proper confronting position, the first and second pillars 62, 64 of the first and second members 48, 50 cooperatively form a bow 86. When the spindle 42 <sup>[[30]]</sup> is inserted in the opening <sup>[[28]]</sup> 26 of the door member 22, the bow 86 provides a secure interference fit with the opening <sup>[[28]]</sup> 26.